SF DIVISION INPUT FOR SEPW CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

Region 6 Libby Vermiculite Sites (Boozman – AR, Inhofe – OK, Udall – NM)
EPA Region 6 is currently addressing a number of Sites where facilities received asbestos contaminated vermiculite ore from the W.R. Grace, Zonolite Mine in Libby, Montana. The communities are concerned about historical health exposure to Libby asbestos and potential current exposure from contaminated soil in their communities. Currently, all sites in Region 6 are being managed through the enforcement process. The Region, with assistance from DOJ, is currently in negotiations with the W.R. Grace Company with the goal of having Grace complete all future assessments and removal actions.

North Little Rock Auto Salvage Site, North Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR: Located in a predominantly African American community in the City of North Little Rock, Pulaski County, AR. EPA initiated assessment activities at the Site in July 2012. Results showed contamination onsite and offsite on residential properties and a nearby public Park. EPA moved quickly to address the contamination in the Park and began to further assess the residential properties.

EPA has conducted numerous briefings with local elected officials, distributed fact sheets and conducted two community meetings with additional community involvement activities planned for the future. The Site has received extensive media attention. The community has been vocal in its desire to see the Site cleaned up and its concern about health issues related to historical asbestos contamination.

Henley Sealants Site, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, OK: Located in a mixed commercial/residential environment in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County, OK, the makeup of the nearby residential community is predominantly African American. EPA performed a cleanup of the facility site and nearby contaminated properties in 2010. Additional assessment and cleanup are planned at the Site. EPA has conducted several briefings with local elected officials and distributed fact sheets. In addition EPA has conducted one community meeting and plans additional community involvement activities as needed. The community is supportive of EPA Region 6 actions.

Solico Industries and Southwest Vermiculite Sites, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, NM: These two Sites are located in Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, NM. Both are located in heavily industrial/commercial areas with pockets of residential properties, the makeup of the residential community is Hispanic American. EPA performed Emergency Removal Actions at four residential properties at Southwest Vermiculite and at one industrial property at the Solico Industries Site. Additional assessment activities are planned for both Sites. EPA has conducted briefings with local elected officials and distributed fact sheets for each Site. In addition EPA has conducted a community meeting for each of these Sites. The communities are supportive of EPA Region 6 actions.

NM
United Nuclear Corporation Superfund Site (Udall – NM)

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United Nuclear Corporation Superfund site (UNC) is located 17 miles northeast of Gallup, on the southern border of the Navajo Indian Reservation in Church Rock, McKinley County, NM. The Site includes a former uranium ore processing mill and tailings disposal area. Under NRC, the mill was decommissioned in 1993 through a Memorandum of Understanding with EPA, and the surface reclamation, including capping of the tailings, was complete in 1996. The surrounding lands include Navajo land and the Northeast Church Rock mine Superfund site. EPA is currently proposing to transport contaminated materials from the NECR mine site to the UNC site for disposal.

Several community groups: Red Water Pond Road Community Association, Bluewater Valley Downstream Alliance (BVDA), Multicultural Alliance for a Save Environment (MASE) and Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping; along with individual residents have stated their opposition to moving the NECR mine waste to the UNC site. They want the mine waste moved to off-site. Region 9 has conducted five community meetings in 2009, six community meetings in 2010, three community meetings in 2011 and participated in the three community meetings conducted by Region 6 in 2012. Additionally, EPA has funded technical assistance for the community through an EPA contract called Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC).

Homestake Mining Company Superfund Site, Cibola County, NM (Udall – NM)
EPA placed the Homestake Mining Company site on the National Priorities list in 1983. This licensed uranium mill began operations in 1958 and has been decommissioned and is undergoing closure with Nuclear Regulatory Commission oversight. EPA signed a Consent Agreement in 1983 to address groundwater impacts and signed a no action ROD in 1989 for off-site radon. An MOU was signed with NRC in 1993 that designated NRC as the lead federal agency for the Site.

Ground water clean up at the site is currently on-going through the license termination process under NRC's authority. HMC expects to achieve target clean up goals by 2020 based on current data. The community is very active and has been frustrated with the pace of clean up and concerned with health impacts and property values. EPA has recently made a decision to issue a Record of Decision (ROD for the ground water cleanup at the site. The EPA is providing assistance to the community through two programs: Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Technical Assistance to Superfund Communities (TASC). Through these two programs the EPA is providing funding and technical contractor support to the community to provide input in the clean up process. The EPA is currently conducting a risk assessment to address health concerns by the public. The EPA periodically meets with the community to provide updates on site progress. Over 20 years of ground water remediation at the Homestake Uranium Mill Superfund site has not achieved cleanup levels because up gradient ground water has been impacted by the legacy mines and mills to the north of Homestake. (also see Grants Mining District below)

Grants Mining District 5-Year Plan, Grants, NM (Udall – NM)
The Grants Mining District (GMD) is an area 100 miles by 25 miles located north of Grants, New Mexico, on non-Navajo Nation lands. It represents an area of legacy uranium mining and milling activities that were conducted from the 1950s to the late-1980s. Environmental impacts associated with the GMD were first brought to the attention of EPA when ground water contamination was discovered up gradient of EPA's Homestake Uranium Mill Superfund Site in the early 2000s. EPA and several other federal, state and tribal agencies developed the GMD 5-

Year Plan to assess health and environmental impacts from the GMD. The 5-Year Plan consists of the following components: i) Assessment of Water Supply for Contamination; ii) Assessment and Cleanup of Legacy Uranium Mines; iii) Contaminant Assessment, Cleanup, and Long-Term Management of Former Uranium Milling Sites; iv) Assessment and Cleanup of Contaminated Structures; v) Jackpile Mine on Laguna Pueblo; and vi) Public Health Surveillance

Based on aerial gamma surveys and historical records, 97 legacy uranium mines were identified within the GMD with potential physical hazards and potential for releases of hazardous substances. Radionuclides, including uranium, and metals have contaminated soil, sediment, surface water and ground water. Current land uses in the GMD include ranching, residential, and recreational. Residential properties and structures have been impacted from radiation contamination on both public lands and the Laguna of Pueblo tribal lands. The Jackpile uranium mine, located on Laguna Pueblo, was proposed to the NPL on March 15, 2012.

Many of the largest legacy mines within the GMD (specifically the Ambrosia Lake Mining Sub-District) were permitted and regulated by the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) under a ground water discharge permitting program and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) under a mining permitting program. These two permitting programs have been somewhat ineffective at preventing or abating releases from these sites.

-Reclamation and closure activities have been performed at most of these mines under MMD's direction, however ground water abatement was not performed and there are currently no state radiation standards for soil, so previous surface reclamation efforts were not protective.

-NMED has the authority to enforce its Water Quality Act regulations and standards for protection of ground water and abatement of ground water contamination, but has been reluctant in the past to use enforcement.

New Mexico Department of Health conducted uranium screening on 100 individuals from the GMD area using urine samples. Approximately 10 percent were found to have elevated uranium in their urine. Those with elevated uranium levels also had elevated uranium levels detected in their private wells. Over 20 years of ground water remediation at the Homestake Uranium Mill Superfund site has not achieved cleanup levels because up gradient ground water has been impacted by the legacy mines and mills to the north of Homestake.

Jackpile Mine Superfund Site, Laguna Pueblo, NM (Udall – NM)

The previously reclaimed Jackpile Mine, once the world's largest open pit uranium mine, is located on the Pueblo of Laguna near the village of Paguate. It encompasses approximately 7,868 acres and includes three open pits, 32 waste dumps, and 23 stockpiles of non-economical ore. Mine reclamation was conducted by ARCO in the early 1990s under the direction and oversight of the Pueblo of Laguna. The reclamation work included the backfilling of the open pit areas, regrading and covering of the waste rock dumps, and demolishing or decontaminating remaining structures. In 2007, it was determined by the Pueblo of Laguna that the reclamation was incomplete and assistance was subsequently sought from EPA.

EPA's investigation in 2010 and 2011 led to the discovery of surface water contamination. Radionuclides, including uranium, and metals were detected at concentrations significantly above background levels in the Rio Moquino and Rio Paguate, two perennial rivers, which bisect

the site. The Rio Paguate flows into the Paguate Reservoir approximately 5.5 miles downstream from the site. Surface water within a few miles of the site is used as a domestic water supply and for recreational fishing, irrigation, livestock watering, wildlife habitat and primary contact. EPA proposed the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) of Superfund sites on March 15, 2012. EPA anticipates listing the site in early 2013. EPA is currently preparing to enter into settlement negotiations with ARCO for the performance of a remedial investigation and feasibility study (RI/FS) at the site.

AR

Cedar Chemical Superfund Site (Boozman – AR)

The Cedar Chemical Superfund Site is located in an industrialized area of Helena / West Helena, Arkansas. The site is an abandoned chemical plant that mostly manufactured herbicides and pesticides.Harcross Chemicals, Inc. and its wholly owned subsidiary, Quapaw Products, LLC has entered into an Agreed Order with the State of Arkansas, to lease the property and conduct some "clean-up" activities. Presently, Quapaw has "sub-leased" part of the plant to Enviro-Tech. Enviro-Tech is manufacturing acetic acid for use in the poultry industry.The Site was recently listed on the NPL, and Region 6 is pursuing enforcement options at the present time. The EPA is currently reviewing numerous 104(e) responses from various PRPs, and is preparing to issue Special Notice letters. EPA Regions 6 is presently evaluating enforcement options to require PRPs to conduct the cleanup activities

LA

Devils Swamp Lake Superfund Site, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA (Vitter - LA)

Devil's Swamp Lake (DSL) is in a large flood plain area near Alsen, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA. Prior to the 1950s, uses of the area consisted of farming, grazing, and some logging. Rapid industrialization throughout the 1960s and 1970s resulted in the establishment of numerous industrial and waste storage facilities, with subsequent releases of hazardous substances. On December 3, 2009, the EPA signed a Unilateral Administrative Order (Order) to compel potentially responsible parties to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study that would evaluate the extent of contamination and environmental risks.

The EJ community surrounding the site is concerned with several adjacent sites, in addition to the Devil's Swamp site. The recent decision to expand a nearby Subtitle D landfill has heightened citizen concerns along with a fishing advisory. EPA has provided a TAG to a local group and meets with the community often. EPA worked with the responsible party at the site to provide a scholarship for local students to the nearby community college.

Bayou Corne: June and July 2012: Assumption Parish government officials and state government investigate unexplained bubbling in Bayou Corne and Grand Bayou. August 2-3, 2012: An area of wooded swamp located in Bayou Corne began to subside. The area of concern is over the western flank of the Napoleonville salt dome in Assumption Parrish. Investigations have confirmed that the cause of the sinkhole is the collapse wall of a s alt cavern owned by Texas Brine, a brine mining company Brine mining wells are regulated under the UIC program by the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) as Class III

injection wells.

EPA R6 has assisted the State with air monitoring and flights of the ASPECT plane.
Texas Brine (TB) has been installing shallow wells (geoprobe) into the aquifers to purge the natural gas. TB is installing in-house gas monitors. Analysis by the "Science Workgroup" (LSU, U of Memphis, LDNR, USGS, Los Alamos Nat'l Lab, et al) have determined that the sinkhole will not swallow up the homes, businesses or town of Bayou Corne.LA Conservation Commissioner has ordered TB to install two more 6,000+ observation wells and to construct a berm around the sink hole to prevent salt water migration. TB is fighting that order in court.

Environmental/public health concerns are a significant physical hazard as this is an unstable geologic formation. LDNR, State Police, and LDEQ have held multiple public availability sessions and post data on public websites. The community expects the situation to be rectified, there are no quick fixes to a sinkhole.

MOSSVILLE, LA EJ AREA (Vitter – LA):
Mossville, LA is an EJ community located in an industrial area in Louisiana. Through the past fifteen years, much testing and community involvement has been done in this area through the RCRA program and through the Superfund program; however, the area did not test for an NPL site. Approximately 10 years ago, many residents have moved away from the area although a few have returned.

There are two groups in this community who are very much at odds with each other. They want a clinic for their community; however, will not accept a clinic funded by industry monies. There is a large medical facility with services for the community within approximately 8 miles. The Superfund EJ Liaison has maintained contact with two primary activists groups in the area and continues to address any community complaints. In addition, our R6 EJ Liaion keeps in contact with our Region 6 EJ Office to help address concerns which has helped much with the community. However, the two groups within the community are still at strong odds with each other

Highway 71/72 Refinery Superfund Alternative Site, Bossier City, LA
From the 1920's to 1965, a 215 acre area in what is now a commercial and residential area in Bossier City, LA, was used for oil refining, storage, and transportation depot operations. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in 2000 to address lead in surface soil; hydrocarbons in surface and subsurface soils; floating hydrocarbon liquid on the groundwater; and indoor air quality problems related to hydrocarbon gas intrusion from underlying soils. In 2004, the responsible party, CanadianOxy Offshore Production Co.,(COPCO) signed a consent decree to implement the ROD. Construction of the remedy was completed in 2010.

Three public availability sessions/open houses have been held since the start of RD/RA site work. The first public availability session was held on November 28, 2006, to mark the start up of RD work. The last open house was held on December 7, 2010. This open house marked the completion of construction of the remedy. Attendance at public availability sessions and open houses has been low with five or fewer participants.

EXPLO Systems, Inc., Minden, LA: On October 15, 2012, the explosion of a magazine containing explosive powder at EXPLO Systems, Inc., Camp Minden, LA prompted attention from EPA, Louisiana State Police (LSP), and national media. On November 28, LSP discovered approximately 9 million lbs. of unsecured M6 Propellant at EXPLO Systems. From 28 November, 2012 – 7 January, 2013, EXPLO employees, under the direction of LSP secured 6.4 million lbs. of M6 in magazines at Camp Minden. Approximately 3.7 million lbs. of M6 is unsecured without secure storage available. Other hazardous materials present at EXPLO Systems include: 3,000 lbs of solid/liquid mixture and 3-55 gal. drums of liquid "Red/Pink Water" (TNT/RDX/water solution), 130,000 lbs. of Tritonal-3 (aluminum/TNT), and 700 lbs. of a mixture of Plastic/Tar/TNT waste. A total of 98 (78 previously filled by EXPLO) magazines are filled to capacity with an estimated 20 million lbs of M6 Propellant at Camp Minden. Additional storage is necessary to secure remaining M6 Propellant. The current volume of unsecured M6 Propellant requires a minimum of a 4,000-foot safe distance, due to risk of explosion. Also, the other hazardous materials on-site are classified as high explosive and toxic causing an imminent threat to human health and the environment. EPA is facilitating cleanup efforts at the site with LSP, LDEQ, DOD and Louisiana National Guard. The LSP is the lead agency for site cleanup. **(Contact: Ragan Broyles, x3166)**

OK

Tar Creek Superfund Site, Ottawa County, Oklahoma (Inhofe - OK)

The Tar Creek Superfund site, located in northeastern Oklahoma, is part of the Tri-State Mining District which includes northeastern Oklahoma, southeastern Kansas, and southwestern Missouri. About 75 million tons of chat mine tailings containing lead, zinc, and cadmium remain on the surface of the ground as large piles throughout the communities. The Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma is a significant landowner at the site and an active participant in the remedy. The site also affects eleven other tribes in the area.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES/TALKING POINTS:

- A Cooperative Agreement (CA) between EPA and the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma was signed September 14, 2012. The intent of this CA is to enable the Tribe, in a cost effect manner, to remediation land they own (the Catholic 40), which is part of OU4. This effort is projected to occur over a 2 year period.
- The remediation of OU4 sites that have granted access is on-going. Work is currently being focused on restricted properties, to minimize the 10 percent match the State must meet on funds spent on unrestricted land.
- Remediated 207 properties and 227 properties are scheduled for remediation in the city of Miami this year. This "Last Chance" remediation effort is projected to be completed in September 2013.
- Since January 2010, over a 1.7 million tons of source material (OU4) have been removed in distal zones. This work has enabled 312 acres, thus far, to be put back into circulation for reuse.
- As part of EPA's outreach effort, EPA in coordination with the Downstream Tribes conducted a site tour of OU4 remediated areas on December 6, 2012.
- EPA will continue to work with the multiple stakeholders (i.e. Tribes, State, Federal Agencies, and Organizations) and property owners that have an interest in this site, to maximize the use of funds that are being provided on an incremental basis.

TX

San Jacinto Superfund Site, Harris County, Houston, TX:

The Site includes of a set of impoundments approximately 14 acres in size built in the mid-1960s for disposal of paper mill pulp wastes containing dioxin. On March 19, 2008, the Site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL). In 2009, EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to International Paper Company and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation, the Potentially Responsible Parties for the Site. The 2009 Order directs IPC and MIMC to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the Site. A Superfund time-critical removal action was completed in July of 2011 to stabilize the pulp waste material and sediments within the impoundments to prevent the further release of dioxins into the environment. The removal included the placement of an armor rock cap over the impoundments. Fish consumption advisories are in place for the San Jacinto River.

The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study are on-going with completion planned in 2013. The EPA co-leads a Site Community Advisory Committee, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Harris County, the Port of Houston, Houston Galveston Area Council, the Galveston Bay Foundation, and the Potentially Responsible Parties.